



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2002

The Honorable George W. Bush
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We were pleased to hear your announcement that you would be including a \$3.5 billion homeland security proposal in your FY03 budget request targeted to meet the needs of our nation's communities and first responders through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) similar to what we proposed last year in HR 3161, the Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act. While we applaud your initiative, we hope that as you finalize your budget request you will consider several changes of considerable importance to the community leaders and first responders we represent.

First, we are very pleased that you have included \$2 billion to provide equipment and \$1.1 billion to provide special training for first responders in your proposal. However, one of the most important provisions of HR 3161 would have waived the local matching fund requirements that exist with most of the programs currently in place to disburse these types of grants, such as the Community Oriented Policing program (COPS) and the Firefighter Assistance Program. It became clear to us after numerous meetings with our community leaders and first responders that the threat to our communities is now, and we cannot give those at war with the United States the opportunity to strike while our communities spend years saving enough money to pay the local match for federal funds. We hope that when you submit your FY03 budget request to Congress that you will include elimination of the local matching requirements for these programs.

Second, we are pleased to see that you have included \$105 million to support state and local governments in developing comprehensive strategic plans to prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks. While this proposal recognizes the need for this type of planning, we believe this funding level is inadequate. Our legislation includes \$1 billion to begin this process, and from the responses we have received, it is clear that even this level would only begin to address the needs of our communities.


In developing comprehensive strategic preparation and response plans, communities will need to conduct local threat assessments, coordinate interdepartmental, interagency, and

multi-jurisdictional operational agreements, and develop and procure systems to provide a common communications platform between emergency first responders. As this coordinated planning will be necessary to put into action the additional training and equipment first responders will be able to provide to the community, we strongly encourage you to include a more robust funding level for community planning.

Finally, preparation and response planning must be developed from the bottom up, and as you prepare your FY03 budget we respectfully request that you ensure that the majority of planning funds proposed in this initiative go directly to local communities including cities, counties, towns, boroughs, tribes, or other recognized municipalities, consortia of local government, in any state or territory of the United States.

We appreciate your initiative on this issue, and we stand ready to work with you in Congress as this proposal moves forward. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

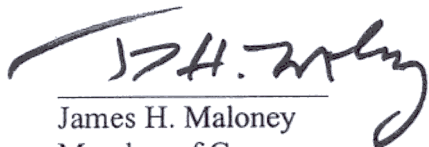
Sincerely,




John E. Baldacci
Member of Congress



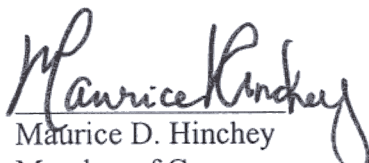
John B. Larson
Member of Congress




James H. Maloney
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress




Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

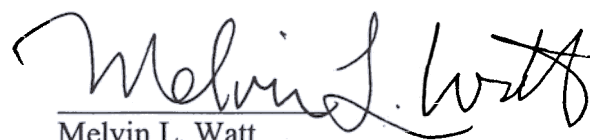


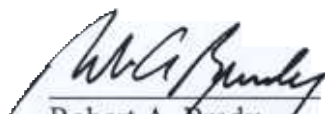
Tom Sawyer
Member of Congress




Christopher John
Member of Congress

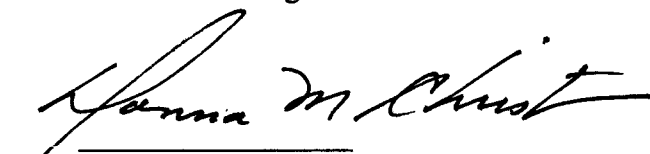

Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress

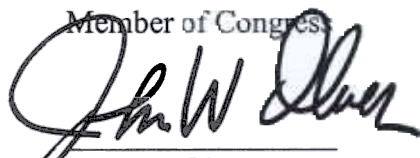

Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress

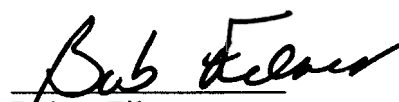

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Frank Mascara
Member of Congress

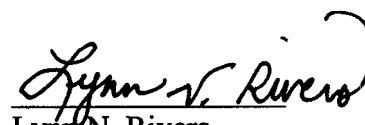

Tim Holden
Member of Congress


Donna Christensen
Member of Congress

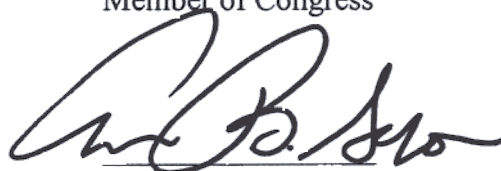

John W. Olver
Member of Congress

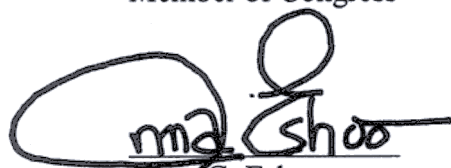

Robert Filner
Member of Congress

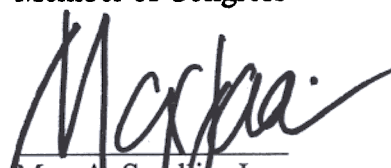

Mark Udall
Member of Congress



Lynn N. Rivers
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

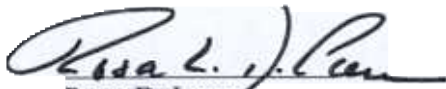

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Max A. Sandlin, Jr.
Member of Congress



Robert A. Underwood
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Lynn C. Woolsey
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Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

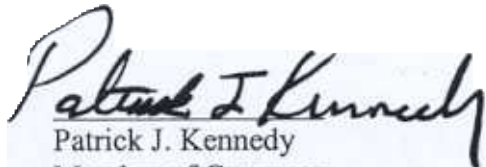

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

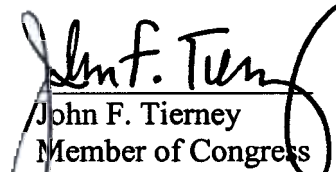

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

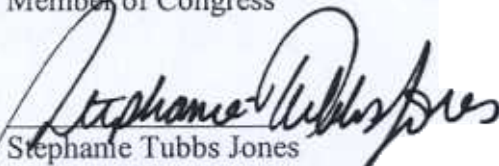

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

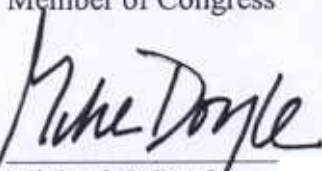

Mike Ross
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress

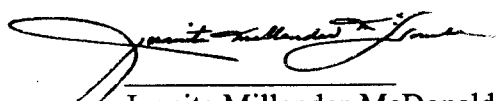

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

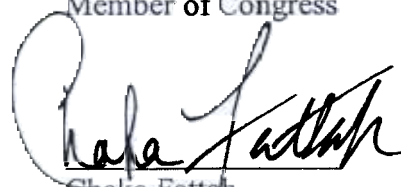

Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress

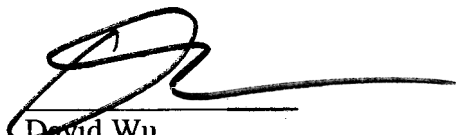

Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress


William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

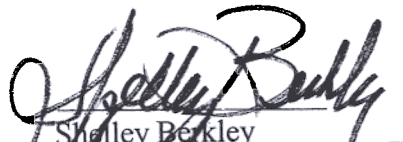

David Wu
Member of Congress



Mike M. Honda
Member of Congress

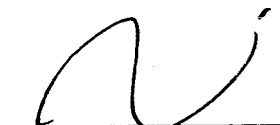

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

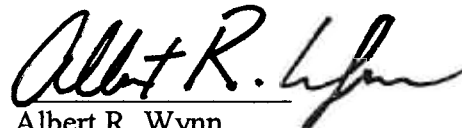

Robert A. Borski
Member of Congress

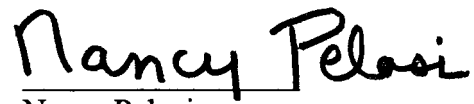

Shirley Berkley
Member of Congress



Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Anthony D. Weiner
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Thomas M. Barrett
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Albert R. Wynn
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Nancy Pelosi
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William Lacy Clay
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